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Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Division of Agr'l. Statistics
Agricultural Extension Service
of Nebr. College of Agriculture

NEBRASKA WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP REPORT

Release 12/23/68

Week Ending 12/23/68

WEATHER It was a cold snowy week in Nebraska. Blizzard conditions prevailed in the central and northeast sections during mid-week and again over the week end. Temperatures averaged from two to five degrees below normal in the east to 10 degrees below normal in the west.

Freezing rain and sleet preceded the snow in the southeast during the mid-week storm. Moisture content was high, ranging from an inch to an inch and a half southeast of the Webster-Burt county line. Grand Island received a foot of snow. From one to three inches of snow fell as far west as the Imperial-Valentine line, but the Panhandle received only a trace of snow from this storm.

The second storm brought snow to the entire State except the extreme southeast, where rain fell. The snow cover at the end of the week ranged from four to nine inches in the Panhandle and far east central to a cover of 15 to 20 inches from the south central to the northeast. York reports 25 inches on the ground. The snowfall was accompanied by temperatures in the teens and very high winds. Snow and blowing snow dropped the visibility to zero, blocked roads, and brought activities to a halt. Monday morning found the storm departing the northeast corner of the State, and "digging out" operations were under way.

CROPS Fall sown crops received little protection from low temperatures as strong winds piled snow into large drifts in central and eastern areas; however, the wheat crop remained in good to excellent condition. Precipitation fell in the southeast and southern Panhandle where top soils are dry, but benefits were limited where drifting occurred.

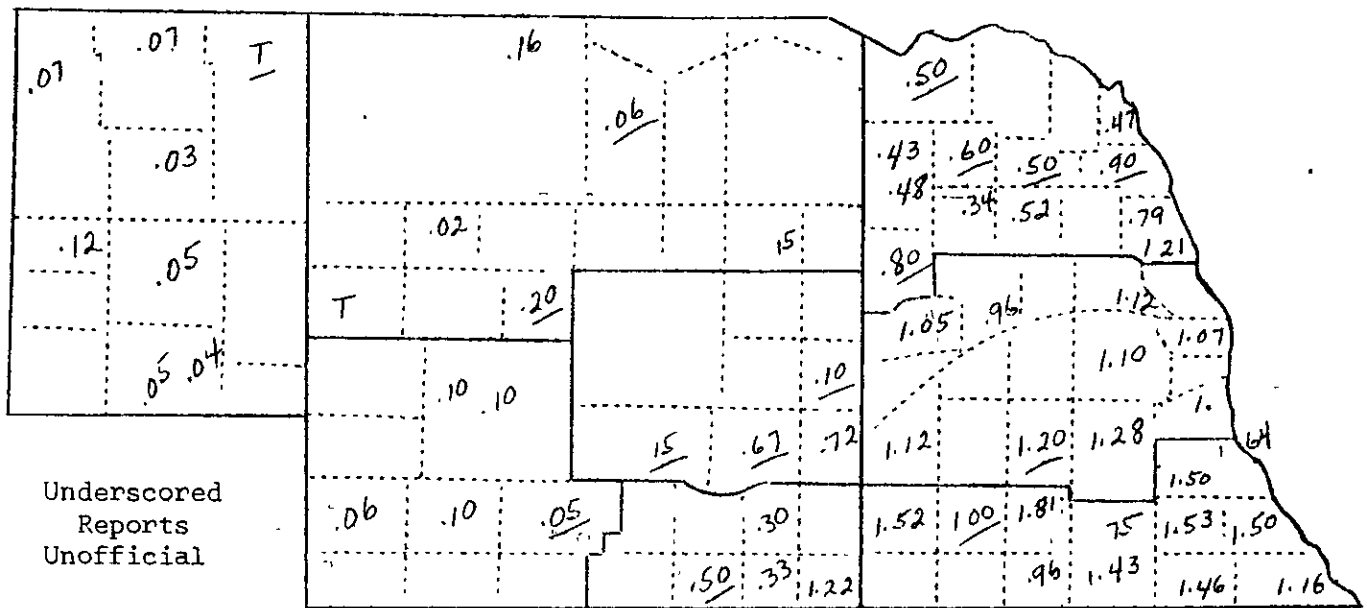
Most field work stopped at mid-week as only three and one-half days were favorable for field work. Stalk fields and winter ranges were partially covered thus reducing or stopping livestock grazing. Supplemental feeding of hays and forages was necessary and some farmers and ranchers were having difficulty in moving feed supplies through the deep snow. Low temperatures also caused problems of keeping water supplies open to livestock.

LIVESTOCK Rain followed by snow and blizzard conditions caused considerable hardship to all livestock, especially on open ranges. Some losses of young livestock are expected where adequate protection was not available. Feed lots were full of snow causing animals difficulty in getting to and from feed bunks thus limiting their gains.

WEATHER BUREAU TELEGRAPHIC REPORT OF PRECIPITATION FOR WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 22, 1968

<u>East</u>		<u>Central</u>		<u>West</u>	
Grand Island	1.59	Burwell	--	Chadron	.16
Lincoln	1.67	North Platte	.80	Imperial	.30
Norfolk	1.26	Valentine	.32	Scottsbluff	.38
Omaha	1.52			Sidney	.43
Sioux City	1.45				

PRECIPITATION ON MAP FOR WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 20, 1968



HIGHEST AND LOWEST TEMPERATURE (Highs for 24 hours ending at 12:01 a.m., and lows for 12 hours ending at 6:00 a.m., CST)

		December		16th		17th		18th		19th		20th		21st		22nd	
		Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min
NW	Chadron	55	26	41	23	33	12	36	15	19	8	16	8	15	2		
	Scottsbluff	52	22	38	17	34	6	36	15	21	4	19	9	15	-4		
	Sidney	38	13	39	17	30	8	34	13	18	9	15	5	15	-4		
NC	Burwell	45	18	30	25	29	16	25	3	19	9	15	5	13	--		
	Valentine	45	25	35	24	26	18	21	-7	13	5	13	8	10	2		
NE	Norfolk	39	19	33	28	29	21	23	10	14	10	22	16	23	9		
	Sioux City	36	19	37	29	31	24	29	7	18	12	25	22	26	10		
CEN	Grand Island	42	21	31	29	31	22	26	3	16	7	22	13	15	6		
EC	Lincoln	40	24	33	32	32	24	26	11	20	13	35	25	25	10		
	Omaha	37	21	34	30	32	25	25	12	19	12	31	28	33	9		
SW	Imperial	48	14	38	25	31	14	34	11	19	10	15	8	16	-2		
	North Platte	49	16	37	20	29	23	29	2	20	11	13	10	14	-5		

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